



LEARN ENVIRONMENT VOCABULARY



The Environment

The Environment

What is **the environment**?

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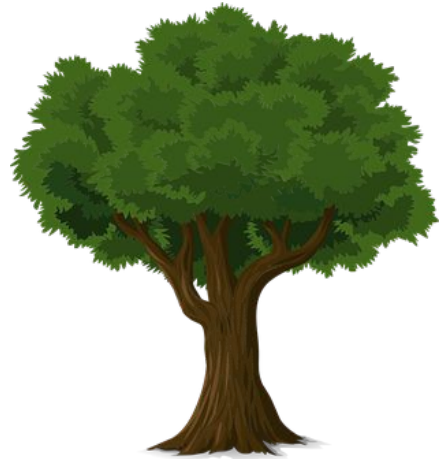
The environment is the surrounding or place where humans, plants and animals live but we often talk about “the environment” to mean the influence and impact we have on the natural world around us.

The Environment

What are the biggest
problems facing our planet
today?

The Environment

There are numerous environmental issues on planet Earth today, including pollution, deforestation and climate change.



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Pollution

Air **pollution** is the contamination of the **air**. This is especially evident in cities or where **industrial plants** are located. This leads to poorer air quality and potentially breathing problems such as asthma. Pollution also exists in water, with **chemicals** being poured into rivers and lakes. This is damaging for the water cycle, causing **acid rain** and also for the **habitats** of marine animals. Another issue is soil pollution, which is the use of **pesticides** on farmland.

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Pollution

- Does pollution affect your city/town?
- What are the long-term dangers of pollution?
- Do you think our interest in GM foods is leading to further soil pollution? Can we change these habitats? Why/not?

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Climate Change

This is an increase in the average global temperature. By carrying out everyday activities, such as driving a car, **greenhouse gases** are **emitted** into the atmosphere. The main gases are **carbon dioxide**, **methane** and **nitrous oxide**. These gases trap the heat of the sun inside the Earth's atmosphere causing the **greenhouse effect**. This is causing global temperatures to rise leading to **extreme weather** on our planet and melting **ice-caps**, which could result in higher water level and animals like the polar bear may **die out**.

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Climate Change

- Do you think climate change exists? Why do think so many people don't believe in it?
- Is the weather becoming more extreme in your home town/city?

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Deforestation

The trees in rainforests and jungles absorb carbon dioxide. However, many rainforests have been destroyed recently, namely for the wood. With fewer trees, less CO₂ can be absorbed, contributing to global warming at a more rapid rate. In addition, animals, whose habitats are the rainforest, are being destroyed. The **extinction** of some **species** can be **put down to** this. The soil upon which rainforests are built doesn't tend to be good enough for farming or cultivation so it becomes desert land.

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Deforestation

- Does deforestation happen in your town/city?
- Do you think it's a global responsibility to protect the Amazon rainforest or just of those countries who it belongs to?

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Ozone-Layer Depletion

A layer of **ozone gas** covers the Earth in the stratosphere. It absorbs UV radiation from sunlight, basically acting as sun cream for our planet. Through industrial pollution, namely **CFCs**, small holes have appeared in the ozone layer. This means more dangerous **UV radiation** can be felt on Earth which could lead to health problems such as skin cancer and cataracts. There may be a devastating impact on plant and animal life too.

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Ozone-Layer Depletion

- What potential health impact could we have with high UV radiation?
- We've managed to reduce the ozone-layer hole over the recent years, do think this means we also have a chance of reversing other environmental damage, such as global warming?

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But there are things we can do at home to prevent this environmental damage from becoming worse.



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Recycling

Don't **litter**, **throw away rubbish** effectively so as not to pollute the land. Try to **recycle** when possible. There are so many materials you can recycle nowadays, including metal, plastic and paper. Many cities have **bottle banks** where glass can be **disposed of** too. Before buying products try to see what kind of materials are used and try to avoid buying products that don't have recyclable packaging. One of the biggest contributors to land pollution is **single-use plastic**, so avoid buying **packaging** for products with this material. Production of single-use plastic is **prohibited** in many countries now.

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Recycling

- Do you recycle? Is it popular in your country? What can you recycle?
- Are recycling plants easily accessible where you live?
- Do you get plastic bags in your shops?

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Volunteering

If you have some spare time, try **volunteering** for an environmental **NGO**. Not only can you learn more about the consequences of climate change but you can spend some time helping out, such as **clearing up** litter on beaches and helping organise materials for recycling. We can **stand up for** the environment and spread the word to family and friends.



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Volunteering

- Do you think NGOs have a big impact on environmental policy? Why/not?
- What are the most well-known environmental NGOs where you live?



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Buy in an environmentally-friendly manner

Try to use **local produce** to ensure transport and fuel consumption is minimal. Many cities have local farmers with a farmer's market to buy fresh produce, which will also support the local economy. You could even buy a small **allotment** and start growing your own produce. Pesticides are used on many foods so we can also buy **organic** food instead. Cows **give off** methane, so by **cutting out** beef from your diet, you are also playing your part.



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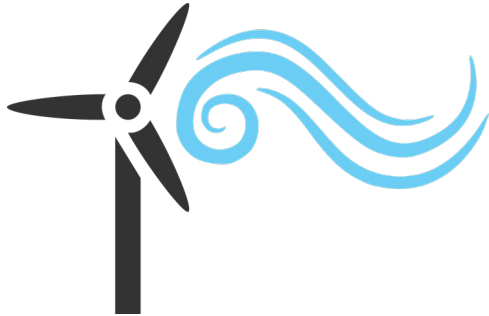
Buy in an environmentally-friendly manner

- Do you take note of where your food/drink comes from? Why/not?
- Would price/quality be more important to you than environmental footprint?
- Do you use a local farmer's market? Are they popular in your country?
- Do people use allotments where you live?
- Would you ever choose organic food instead?
- Could you ever become vegan/vegetarian to help the environment? Why/not?

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Reduce energy consumption

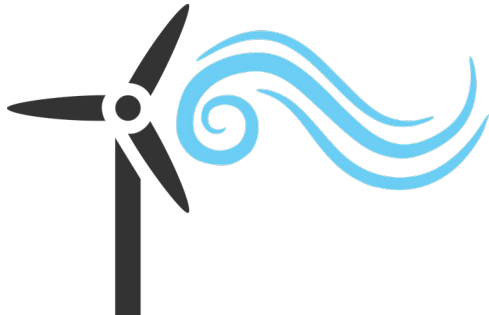
Consumption of **natural resources**, such as electricity, gas and water can have detrimental effects on the environment. Try to reduce use of these energy sources or turn to **renewable energy** instead, such as solar, wind, hydroelectric or geothermal energy.



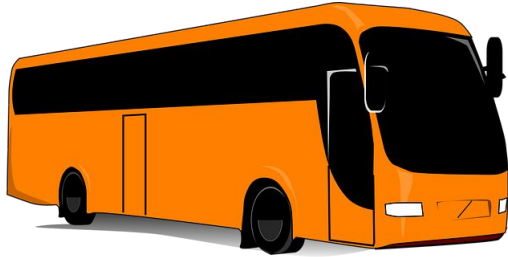
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Reduce energy consumption

- Would you ever change your gas/electricity/water habits for the environment?
- Do you use renewable energy? Is it easily accessible where you live?



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Use public transport

By using private transport, such as cars, each person uses up **petrol**. **Fumes** given off when a car engine is turned on contribute to global warming. If you drive private transport, try to use minimal petrol or turn the engine off when possible. Alternatively, you could use public transport or non-emitting transport, such as a bicycle or electric car. Oil and petrol production has often ended up in **spillages** in seas killing many marine birds and fish.

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Use public transport

- Do you use a petrol vehicle? Would you ever give it up for the environment?
- What do you think about oil spillages in the ocean?

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Look after animals

The Earth's **ecosystem** is very fragile. By releasing unwanted pets into the environment you could be damaging the ecosystem. We should also look after **wildlife** and work with wildlife organisations to prevent **hunting** and **poaching**. We can also avoid buying clothing or products with animal fur or skin. Some species may be completely **wiped out** if we don't take action.

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Look after animals

- Do you have any pets? Do you like animals?
- What do you think about hunting and poaching?

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There are many people who can't **face up to** the environmental issues we face today and, perhaps, aren't interested in the wellbeing of future generations.



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By acting together, we can **call for** environmental help! If we don't **deal with** it today, who knows what the future consequences will be.



Any questions?





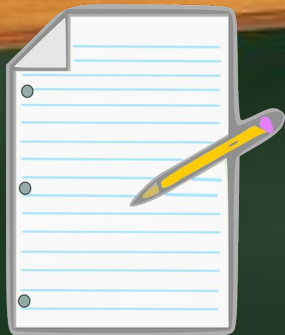
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REVIEW



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HOMEWORK

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